



**SOUVENIR  
BOOKLET  
TO MARK THE  
THIRTY-FIFTH  
ANNIVERSARY**

**WOMENS' DIVISION FEDERATED FARMERS OF NEW ZEALAND (INCORPORATED)**







OBJECT

*To better the conditions of  
women and children living  
in the country.*

*Thirty-Five Years of  
Service in the interests of  
Country Women  
of  
New Zealand  
1925 = 1960*

*A Record of Progress and Achievement*





*DOMINION HEADQUARTERS AND CLUB ROOMS*

*W.D.F.F.*

*32 HAWKESTONE STREET,*

*WELLINGTON, N.I.*

*NEW ZEALAND*









## HISTORICAL CALENDAR OF EVENTS IN HISTORY OF WOMEN'S DIVISION FEDERATED FARMERS OF NEW ZEALAND (Inc.)

- 1925 Inaugural meeting in Wellington, 28th July.
- 1926 First Annual Conference  
Opened by Mrs. J. G. Coates.
- 1927 Community Chest established and W.D. Emergency  
Housekeeper Scheme commenced.  
Membership 1,250.
- 1928 Membership doubled — four strongest branches  
Wanganui, Invercargill, Hawera, Taumarunui.  
First salaried secretary engaged.  
Conference opened by Lady Alice Ferguson.
- 1929 W.D. Cookery Book published "The N.Z. House-  
hold Guide".





- 1930 Developmental years—"Much has been done to establish branches" through campaign by voluntary organisers.
- 1931 Badge design approved.  
Conference opened by Lady Bledisloe.
- 1932 "N.Z. Countrywoman" established.
- 1933 International interests developed.
- 1934 W.D. became member Society of A.C.W.W.
- 1935 First contribution sent to "Pennies for Friendship" Fund of A.C.W.W. (9/7).
- 1936 General expansion of all sections of activities.  
Conference opened by Mrs. Peter Fraser.



- 1937 Membership increased to 20,000 with 525 branches  
28 Provincial Executives.
- 1938 "Kainga Moe" acquired under "Deed of Gift"  
Rest Home work, and Maori training scheme  
commenced.
- 1939 N.Z. Centennial Exhibition and Country Women's  
Stand set up.  
"Brave Days", a book of Pioneer Stories, published.
- 1940 War-time activities undertaken.  
W.D. gift to Britain of a Fighter-Plane.
- 1941 War-time work in full swing.  
A number of branches in recess.  
Conference opened by Lady Newall.





- 1942 Conference cancelled. Dominion Advisory Board received reports and adopted Balance Sheet.
- 1943 Conference again impossible. Dominion Executive met with full powers.
- 1944 "Melrose" acquired under "Deed of Trust" and "Te Kiteroa" bought.  
Dominion Executive met at Christchurch in lieu of full Conference.
- 1945 W.D. recognised as an accredited society under Domestic Assistance Regulations.  
Conference opened by Lady Appleton.
- 1946 W.D. purchased its own premises in Grant Road, Wellington, for Dominion Headquarters.  
W.D. became of age and changed its name.  
"Pageant of the Years" presented at Conference.



1947 "Food for Britain" the theme of after-war activities and rehabilitation work.

W.D. Song accepted officially.

1948 "Scotlands" at Onehunga purchased, and "Honda" given by Dr. Agnes Bennett.

1949 "A year of growth and achievement."

Conference opened by Dr. Agnes Bennett.

1950 25th Birthday—Pageant Internationale presented.

Conference opened by Lady Freyberg.

1951 Conference at Christchurch.

"A year of financial consolidation."





- 1952 "Stratheona" acquired under "Deed of Transfer."  
Conference opened by Dame Hilda Ross.
- 1953 Conference at Auckland opened by Lady Allum.  
"Scotlands" at Onehunga sold, and Herne Bay  
property purchased.
- 1954 Queen's visit to New Zealand, and W.D. con-  
tributed to Westminster Abbey Restoration Fund.  
Conference opened by Lady Norrie.
- 1955 Conference in Wellington opened by Mrs. C. K.  
Wilson, O.B.E.  
W.D. in retrospect—a Review presented.
- 1956 Conference at Invercargill opened by Dr. Gregory.  
Mrs. A. M. Berry, President of A.C.W.W. visited  
New Zealand.
- 1957 Conference at Wellington opened by Mrs. H. J.  
Holyoake.  
Nellie Schroder Bursary established.

1958 "Kainga Moe" destroyed by fire.

Regional Conference of A.C.W.W. at Christchurch.

Conference opened by Mrs. W. Elliott, M.B.E.

1959 Conference at Timaru opened by Lady Mallaby.  
New premises purchased at 32 Hawkestone Street,  
Wellington, for Dominion Headquarters.

1960 Membership 30,000 with 58 Provincial Executives  
and 800 Branches.

35th Birthday Observance—Pageant Internationale  
revised.

*Quote—"I have seen the work of  
thirty-five years and I have every  
confidence in the future of our or-  
ganisation".*

*H. Mabel Jackson.*





## THE WOMEN'S CREED

"Keep us, O God, from pettiness; let us be large in thought, in word, in deed.

"Let us be done with fault-finding and leave off self-seeking.

"May we put away pretence and meet each other face to face without self-pity and without prejudice.

"May we never be hasty in judgment and always generous.

"Let us take time for all things; make us to grow calm, serene, gentle.

"Teach us to put into action our better impulses; straightforward and unafraid.

"Grant that we may realise it is the little things that create differences; that in the big things of life we are one.

"And may we strive to touch and to know the great human heart common to us all, and O Lord God, let us not forget to be kind."

The "Mary Stewart Collect,"  
Copyright A.C.W.W.,  
London.



## Our Leaders . . .

*"ALL HAVE PROUDLY CARRIED THE  
TORCH OF THE DIVISION, PASSING IT  
FROM HAND TO HAND, EACH WITH THE  
HOPE THAT THE WORK COMMENCED BY  
THE PIONEER LEADERS WOULD BE CON-  
TINUED AS THE YEARS PASS."*

*From "And So We Grew"*





### DOMINION PRESIDENTS

Mrs. W. J. POLSON	1925 — 1929
Mrs. J. H. JOLL (Acting)	1929
Mrs. C. C. JACKSON	1929 — 1933
Mrs. W. H. WARD	1953 — 1935
Mrs. C. K. WILSON	1935 — 1937
Mrs. J. F. DRAKE	1937 — 1938
Mrs. J. C. WICKHAM	1938 — 1939
Mrs. NOEL ADAMS	1939 — 1942
Mrs. W. ORR	1942 — 1945
Mrs. W. ELLIOTT	1945 — 1948
Mrs. J. R. HALDANE	1948 — 1951
Mrs. G. JAMIESON	1951 — 1954
Mrs. A. G. SCHRODER	1954 — 1957
Mrs. R. D. EASTWOOD	1957 — 1960
Mrs. T. M. WATSON (Acting)	1959



### DOMINION TREASURERS

Mrs. C. C. JACKSON	1925 — 1929
Mrs. DUNCAN SIMPSON	1929 — 1934
Mrs. JAS. POW	1934 — 1935
Mrs. C. C. JACKSON	1935 — 1941
Mrs. H. J. McLEAVEY	1941 — 1956
Mrs. A. C. STEVENSON	1956 —



## HONOURS GRANTED FOR SPECIAL SERVICES TO THE DOMINION ORGANISATION

**Mrs. J. LIVINGSTON, Hawke's Bay**

For service in connection with the publication of the W.D. First Cookery Book "The N.Z. Household Guide," 1933.

**Mrs. DUNCAN SIMPSON, Marton**

For service as W.D. Representative to A.C.W.W. 1938/39.

**Dr. AGNES BENNETT, Wellington**

In recognition of gift of "Honda" to the Women's Division, 1948.

**Mrs. L. HEBBERD, North Wellington**

For outstanding service as Dominion Advisory Member for Housekeepr work in the early years, and for continued interest and service in this field of activity, 1956.

**Miss CAROL HAWKINGS, Wellington**

For faithful service as Hostess of "Honda" 1954/56.





## HONOURS

DOMINION LIFE MEMBERSHIP CONFERRED FOR DOMINION  
SERVICE AS MEMBERS OF THE DOMINION ADVISORY BOARD  
OR DOMINION COUNCIL:

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MRS. W. ANNAN, OTAGO  
MRS. E. R. BLACK, POVERTY BAY  
MRS. A. BLACKMORE, AUCKLAND  
MRS. E. M. FIELD, PALMERSTON NORTH  
MRS. G. W. FAIRWEATHER, CANTERBURY  
MRS. J. W. HENDERSON, AUCKLAND  
MRS. JOHN JOLL, NORTH HAWKE'S BAY  
MRS. GEO. KILLEN, AUCKLAND NORTH  
MRS. G. LAMPLOUGH, CENTRAL TARANAKI  
MRS. H. J. McLEAVEY, MANAWATU  
MRS. N. MACINTOSH, SOUTHLAND



## JUBILEE HONOURS 1950

MRS. T. R. BARRER, MASTERTON  
MRS. ALLEN BELL, HAMILTON  
MRS. M.BETHELL, HURUNUI  
MISS B. CHAYTER, MARLBOROUGH  
MRS. DERBYSHIRE, MARLBOROUGH  
MRS. B. E. EVANS, SOUTH CANTERBURY  
MRS. J. D. HALL, CANTERBURY  
MRS. W. LANE, NORTH AUCKLAND  
MRS. J. A. HARRIS, WELLINGTON CENTRAL  
MRS. R. LILBURN, WANGANUI  
MRS. H. A. NUTT, CANTERBURY  
MRS. W. B. NORTH, NELSON  
MRS. W. B. PRESHAW, WELLINGTON  
MISS M. POLSON, WANGANUI  
MRS. F. PRESTON, OTAGO  
MRS. HENRY SMITH, SOUTHLAND  
MRS. A. B. SMITH, WELLINGTON (Dominion Secretary)  
MRS. COLIN McINTOSH, CANTERBURY



## CORONATION HONOURS 1953

Honours accorded to members who had given outstanding service in the field of organising, particularly in the earlier years of the Division's development:

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MRS. C. BENTON, AUCKLAND  
MRS. L. DRINKWATER, WAIHI  
MRS. E. C. HAULTAIN, BAY OF PLenty  
MRS. F. JOHNSON, MID-CANTERBURY  
MRS. A. FORSYTH, NELSON  
MRS. H. R. MARSH, NORTH TARANAKI  
MRS. R. B. MEEK, NORTH OTAGO  
MRS. V. R. OSBALDISTON, KAIPARA  
MRS. V. E. PEGLER, SOUTH AUCKLAND





## MEMBERS OF HONOUR 1957

In recognition of long and valued service in Branch and/or Provincial Executive:

**Mrs. R. W. BEU, Greytown**

Twenty-one years as Branch President and Executive Member  
26 years.

**Mrs. W. G. K. WIGGINS, Greytown**

Foundation member of Branch and held office of Secretary for  
30 years.

**Mrs. E. HONEYBUN, Hastings**

For continuous and active service since the earliest years of the  
organisation through Branch and Provincial Executive.

## 1958

**Mrs. J. C. FAULKNER, Waimate**

For outstanding service as a valued member of Te Kiteroa Rest  
and Holiday Home Committee 1944/1958.



## INTERNATIONAL REPRESENTATIONS

1934 P.P.W.A. at Honolulu

Mrs. T. R. Barrer

1937 P.P.W.A. at Vancouver

Miss M. Barrer

1937 Congress of Agriculture,

Mrs. Helen Harris

1939 A.C.W.W. at London

Mesdames D. Simpson, Pye,  
Mills, and Miss Jamieson

1947 A.C.W.W. at Amsterdam

Mesdames D. Simpson, Hard-  
ing, Page and Rountree

1949 P.P.W.A. at Honolulu

Mrs. V. C. Williams

1949 A.C.W.W. at Copenhagen

Mesdames J. R. Haldane,, W.  
Elliott, W. Orr, P. Jordan,  
and A. C. Stevenson

1952 U.N. at Manila

Mrs. H. J. McLeavey

1953 A.C.W.W. at Toronto

Mesdames G. Jamieson and  
J. Dark

1954/5 Imperial Relations Bursar

Mrs. T. M. Watson

1955 P.P.W.A. at Manila

Mrs. D. R. Jackson

1956 A.C.W.W. at Ceylon

Mesdames A. G. Schroder,  
A. Harper, J. K. Black

1958 A.C.W.W. Regional Con-  
ference at Christchurch

Mesdames R. D. Eastwood,  
A. G. Schroder, J. R. Hal-  
dane, T. M. Watson, and A.  
C. Stevenson

1959 A.C.W.W. at Edinburgh

Mesdames R. D. Eastwood,  
A. C. Stevenson, and J.  
Fogarty



## W.D. SONG

From the near and distant farmlands,  
From the upland and the plain,  
In community of spirit,  
Let us share our work again.

May we give and take good counsel,  
May the work unto our hand  
Aid the countryside to prosper,  
Ease the hardship of the land.

Not by ladders unto heaven,  
Nor allegiance to a creed,  
But by service simply given  
Unto each in time of need.

Let us think and pray for others  
Absent far across the sea,  
May our hearts and voices mingle,  
In sweet love and sympathy.



*"MELROSE"*

*W.D. Rest Home and Holiday Residence*

*Brougham Street, Nelson*









*"SCOTLANDS" BY THE SEA*

*W.D. Rest and Holiday Residence*

*Herne Bay, Auckland*









*"TE KITEROA"*

*W.D. Rest and Holiday Residence*

*Waimate*









*"HONDA"*

*W.D. Holiday House*

*Lowry Bay, Wellington*









*"STRATHEONA"*

*W.D. Training School, in Home Arts*

*Pleasant Point*





Strathcona.

A handful of men make an  
encampment and  
the women make a home.





## THE MEANING OF OUR BADGE



The W.D.F.F. stands for HOME, for COUNTRY, and COMMONWEALTH



In the early days of its inception the officers of the W.D. called for designs for a badge. The designs of Mesdames Polson, Lilburn and Duncan Simpson were selected and blended into one by Miss Janet Lilburn, the result being the badge now worn by W.D. members.

The lower part of the badge is a scroll with the letters W.D.F.F.N.Z. in gold on a red background.

The circle above has a blue background with a bundle of sticks surmounted by a white star. The bundle of sticks is a symbol of unity, the individual members being united in self-governing branches; these branches being united in one big whole unity of aim; unity of effort; unity of interest. The star rising in the blue sky is the ideal of service; service to the Church, service to the country, service to the community, service to the school, service to the home. Again unity. The Church is the foundation on which our principles are built. Whatever our denomination, in our work for the W.D. we but carry out these principles as we aim to help "the least of these . . . " the little children and mothers.

Our service to the community is expressed in the few words, "LOVE—service without end."

Encircling the blue centre with its symbols of unity is a green band—a circle, endless—signifying "LOVE—service without end." On this green circle is depicted a chain of links—an endless chain of links—each link a branch of the W.D.

The colours in our badge also have their significance. Red, white, and blue for the Commonwealth. Red for human blood, blue for constancy, green for the green lands of our Dominion.

Our badge should mean all this to us, and when one fails to live up to the ideals embodied in it, the fault is in the individual, and not in the organisation.

*This booklet compiled by  
Alison B. Smith  
Dominion Secretary*

**ERRATUM**

Plain W.D. Badge block should have been used on pages giving names of "Members of Honour" and "International Representatives", and NOT Dominion Life Membership Badge.

